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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8982

INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY

RUEHCHI/AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI PRIORITY 7297

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 5469

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 002929

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/MLS, IO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/18/2019

TAGS: PREL PGOV TH

SUBJECT: THAILAND: NO CHANGE IN APPROACH TO
COUNTRY-SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS

REF: A. STATE 116267

1B. BANGKOK 2771

1C. BANGKOK 2518

Classified By: DCM James F. Entwistle, reason 1.4 (b,d)

11. (C) DCM and PolCouns engaged Acting PermSec Chitriya Pimthong, the highest ranking MFA official in country November 18, on U.S. priorities for upcoming country human rights resolutions on Iran, Burma, and North Korea (ref A; Thai positions previously reported in Ref B). Referencing Thai FM Kasit's expressed interest in consulting more closely and regularly with the U.S. on strategic approaches to UN-related issues, DCM asked Chitriya to consider moving Thailand away from its traditional stance of voting for no-action motions, which aim to stifle debate, and abstention on all country-specific motions. PolCouns noted that the DPRK motion is based on the work of the UN Special Rapporteur for DPRK, a well respected Thai constitutional law/human rights professor, Dr. Vitit, who cooperates closely with the Thai MFA on a number of issues, having served as the Thai expert in establishing the terms of reference for the new ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights.

12. (C) Acting PermSec Chitriya, who oversees the International Organizations Department, thanked us for the U.S. position, expressed understanding of our approach to human rights issues, but replied that Thailand would continue with its prior voting pattern, based on a belief in constructive dialogue to improve conditions in countries, as opposed to resolutions condemning specific countries. Chitriya cited Thailand's support on resolutions affecting women and children as an example. DCM suggested that Thailand, which aspires to join the Human Rights Commission as an Asian member in 2010 (ref C), should support discussion of human rights issues and thus abstain from no-action motions. Chitriya replied that Thailand's approach to the Human Rights Commission work had yet to be determined, pending actual membership.

JOHN